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The Paleolithic, Neolithic, Copper and Iron Ages of Shelby County, Indiana

By F. W. GOTTLIEB

THE PALEOLITHIC, NEOLITHIC, COPPER AND IRON AGES OF SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA.

By F. W. GOTTLIEB.

Exact date, I know not; but we will say at least 1,000 years ago. I will treat especially upon the mounds of Hanover township, known as Hog Back and Kinsley mounds. The former is 250 yards long, over 100 yards wide and was 65 feet at its highest point. As I study this prehistoric burial place I become convinced that it is a great deal of Nature's handiwork, dating back to the drift period, because of the large boulders imbedded in the great mass of choicest gravel. A valley between this mound and another very high ridge shows how the earth was taken therefrom and placed on top of the mound ridge, thereby forming a surface which caused the earlier white settlers to give it the name of Hog Back, much representing the razorback species. Old historic Big Blue River flows gracefully past the east side of the mound, which rises abruptly to the height of 65 feet. On the north end flows a spring of sparkling water, which has quenched the thirst of countless ages; even in this progressive period it is the camping and picnic ground for numerous persons each summer season.

The land where this mound is located was entered by a Mr. Chadwick in Freeport, a small isolated village near Morristown, where the South Illinois Indian trail crossed Big Blue River. There was at one time an appropriation made by the Indiana State Legislature for the improvement of Blue River up to this point, and on the opposite side of the river and a little below is a spot marked by the State Geologist where gold has been picked up, the retreat for many summers of Indiana's most famous author and poet, James Whitcomb Riley, and immortalized by him.

Some distance above the squat and burial-place of our pre-Columbian brethren which so beautifully overlooks the village lived a settler of pioneer fame by the name of Pouge, who is supposed to have been killed by the Indians that had stolen his horses, when he with his gun followed the trail northeast of Indianapolis to a stream which took its name after the

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Hog Back Mound
Freeport Ind.

settler. At this point it is claimed that he overtook the Indians and was killed, as he was never seen afterwards. But some years later a skeleton was found in a pit where a tree had uprooted, which was supposed to be the skeleton of the settler, being the last reminder of the Indians who no doubt buried their dead in sitting postures in Hog Back, prepared originally by their predecessors, the Mound Builders.

The mound is in an enclosure of about six acres always covered with blue grass and was undisturbed until fifteen years ago. Several very large beech trees are still standing on the same, also very large stumps of blue poplar trees. After the land was sold, the new owner at once began to haul gravel and great destruction has taken place. Many skeletons have been taken out and their bones, along with the gravel, have helped to make the many good roads of Hanover township.

Seven large spears and many ornaments of bone, mollusk, shale beads, ornamented bear teeth, polished but not pierced, Beaver, Ground Hog and Wildcat teeth have been found.

EXHIBIT 1. The skull of this solon of the past is one of the most perfectly preserved specimens taken from Hog Back. Oh, if he could only tell what his cranium once possessed in knowledge! He was no doubt a Mound Builder, as he was found in nearly the middle of the great ridge and about seven feet under the surface. The carelessness of the gravel diggers was unfortunate indeed, as no other part of him was saved and what artifacts might have been buried with him were lost.

The soul of the man
The organ of thought—
Tell me, if you can,
What this man might have wrought.

2. This broken Femur—see how it was stoved and how firmly it welded together. I would like to know the name of the prehistoric surgeon! I took up a skeleton on the highest point twelve years ago of a man no doubt 90 or 100 years old, judging the age from the teeth. He was a very large man. His jaws were so huge that I could place them on the outside of my jaw and move my chin very freely. He had a broken left rib which was lapped together and healed very nicely.

3. This banded Slate Bird Amulet, being the first of the slate artifacts that were found in the mound, is what archaeologists term the Duck, or Lucky Stone, and was tied on the bow of the boat to insure success for the day's hunt and catch.

4. This Mollusk shell, pierced with three holes, was upon the breast when it was found with the skeleton.

5. This beautiful banded slate ceremonial was unearthed one month ago. It is a very valuable addition to archæological science. I contend that this specimen is not a ceremonial tomahawk, but the ancient game stone, similar to the game of Diabolo recently revived over the world. A heavy sinew from the deer, such as the early Indians used for their bows, was no doubt placed through the unusually large square hole and then tossed into the air by means of a wand and kept in motion by applied science or practice. It shows very plainly where the strings wore grooves on the four corners of the hole through the ceremonial.

This mound looks very sad today, as many hundreds of loads of gravel are hauled therefrom every year and soon the abode of early man will disappear. I will halt here long enough to say that Indiana is very slow in taking up the matter of preserving her Indian Mounds, a subject in which I am deeply interested, and I will make an effort to call the attention of the next session of the Legislature to this important matter.

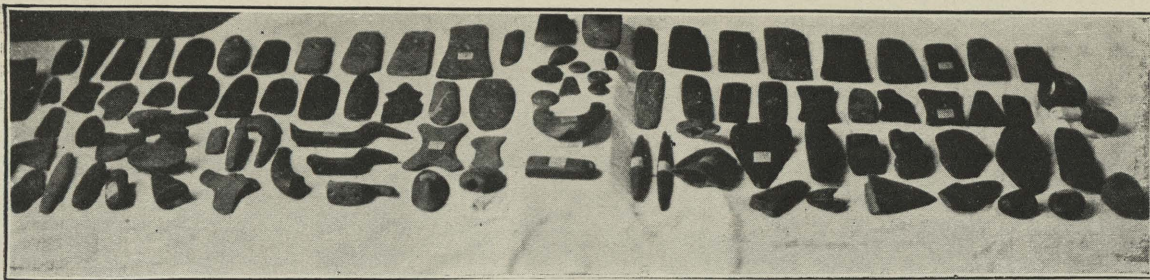


Fig. A.

Neolithic Age.

Showing the many different Banner stones, Gargets, and Ceremonials. The virgin and matrimonial stones in the center of the picture, the U shape being the virgin and the — the matrimonial. Pipes and bow-string makers, etc.

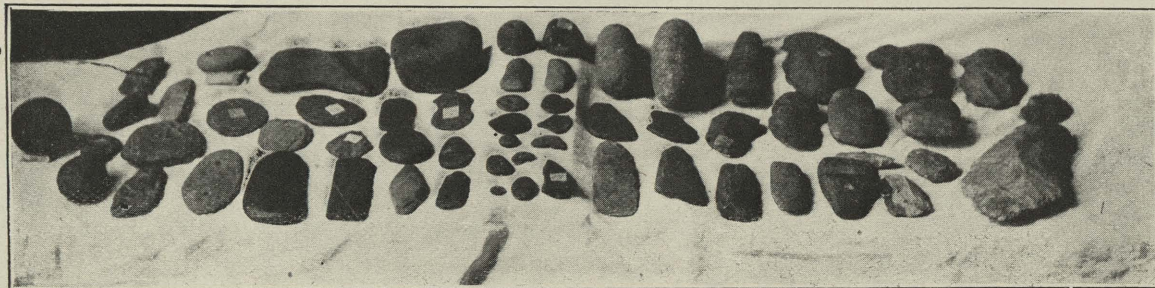


Fig. B.

Paleolithic Age.

These are the crudest of the stone age. Nearly all these stones are as they found them and applied them to their use, with a slight improvement, such as holes or sharpened edges.

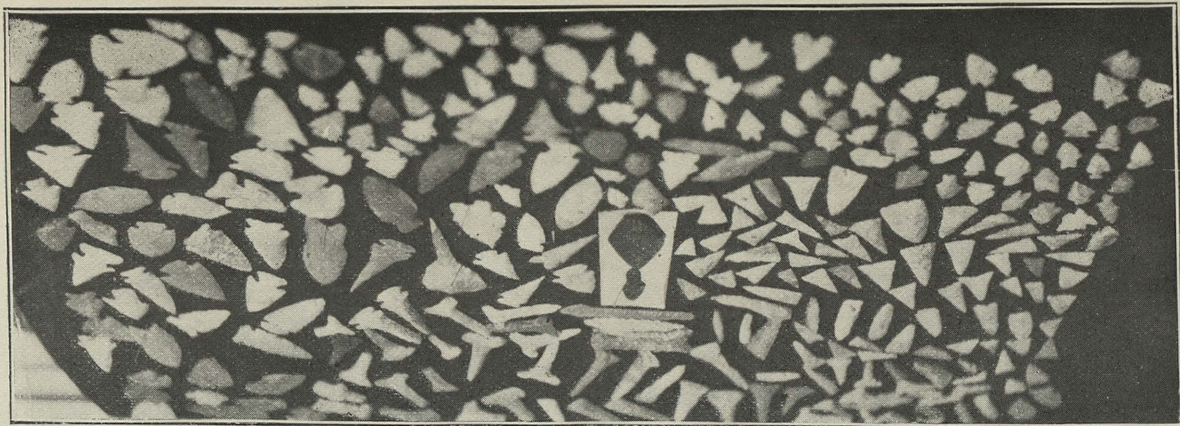


Fig. C.

Neolithic Age.

Drills, spears, war arrows, etc.

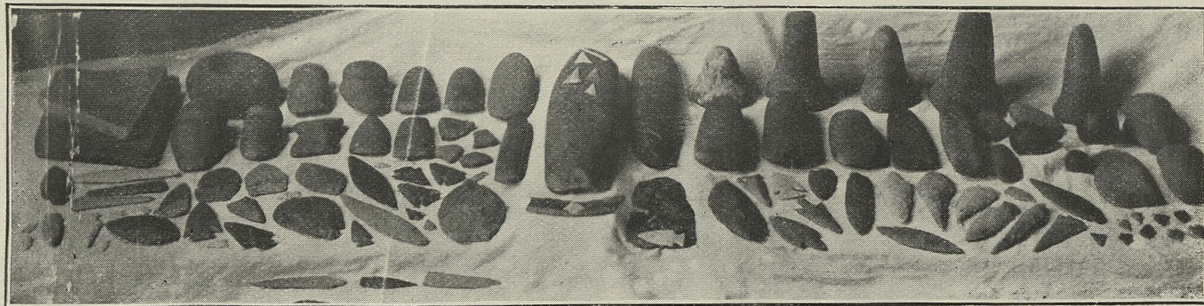


Fig. D

Neolithic Age.

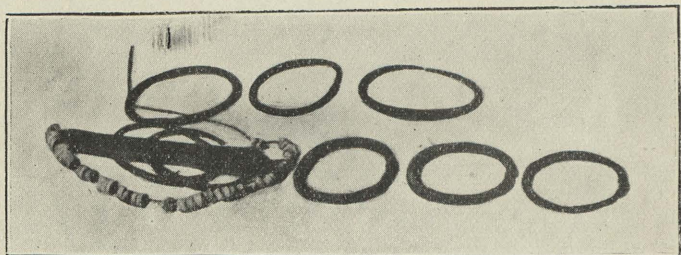
Showing the advanced stage of the stone art over the paleolithic. The tall stones are pestles used to grind their cereals: the long ones are mullers, used, no doubt, to roll out the dough, etc. Large spears, up to 7 and 8 inches, tomahawks, fleshers, tanners, etc.

COPPER AGE.

THE KINSLEY MOUND.

So named because an old gentleman by that name owned the land, which is now inside the corporation of Morristown, Indiana, Hanover Township.

We suspected this elevation to be a mound for years. Finally the land was sold and platted into town lots. Mr. Davis, who bought these certain lots began at once to haul gravel from the side of the mound, which is a perfect circle about 150 feet in diameter and not over seven feet high at the present, owing to the fact that it was under cultivation for many



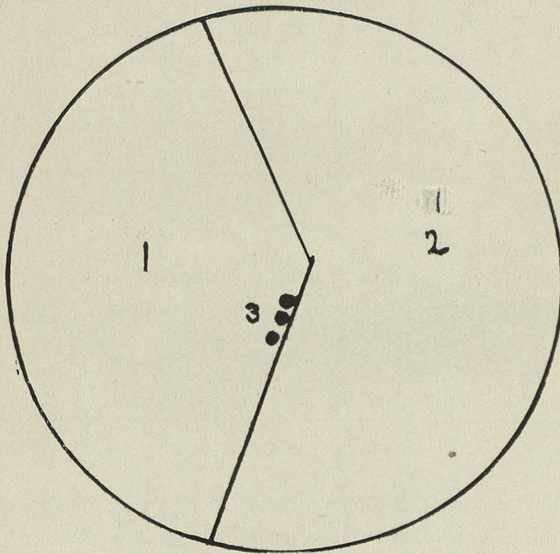
FROM KINSLEY MOUND.

years, which has worn it down several feet. Much to the surprise of the diggers, human bones began to appear, copper bracelets began to fall and tinkle, disclosing three bodies—that of a supposed Chief, his squaw wife and child squaw, having a total of 16 copper bracelets on their wrist-bones. (Of said number I possess 8 and show them to you.) Here are two wrist bones of the child, with two bracelets on them, as I found them myself. My companion obtained the other arm and the two bracelets, being a total of four that the child wore. We found over 200 beads of antler wampum in the dirt about the child's neck. (Of the same I show you over 50.)

Note the thickness of the bracelets about the wrists of the Chief, a size smaller about his no doubt conjugal squaw.

I have here some of the ash bed these bodies were buried in, which shows one inch thick in the soil. Also some splendid specimens of charcoal. The crania in general from this mound are in a miserable condition.

Just one-half of this conical mound has been destroyed. I may yet obtain more valuable information when the remainder has been destroyed. Would that I possessed the same; I would restore and fence it about, let blue grass reign supreme, erect a suitable monument to these solons of the copper age, which could be readily seen from the C. H. & D. R. R., being not over 100 feet from the track; but alas, there is too much profit in the gravel, and man of this flying machine epoch must have the cash.



KINSLEY MOUND.

1. This part excavated.
2. This part left intact.
3. Three bodies were removed.

The International Society of Archæologists, of which I am an ardent member, is taking up the Science of Archæology and spreading it all over the world, enlisting support everywhere, and hope to do away with this wholesale destruction of the monuments, thus preserving them for the care and study of future generations,

Now one word or more, why we find so often three bodies buried together, of man, woman and female child. This is my second observation, and others have related like observations to me. Did they cremate, or put to death first the favorite wife and female child when the chief and father died, to be buried with him, or what? What do you think, you members of this splendid Academy?

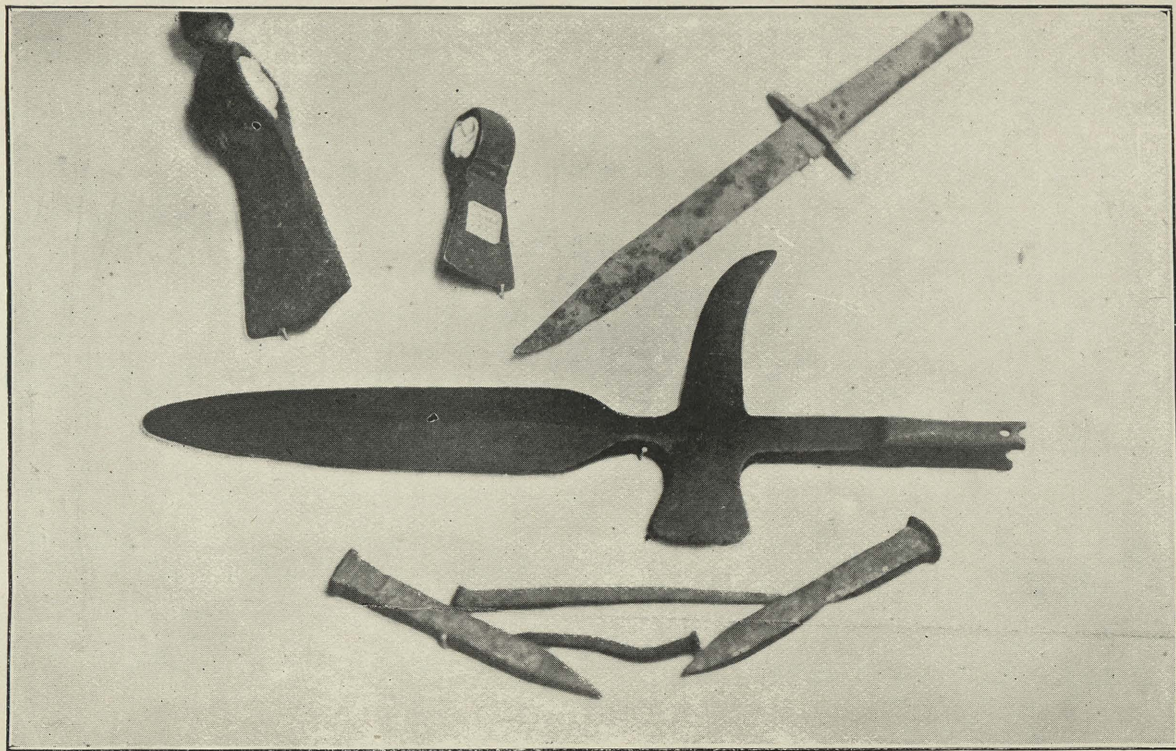
IRON AGE.

We are now in the Columbian era, when the Spanish and French and early English inhabited this section. The center weapon in the illustration is a very finely preserved Halberd, plowed up about ten years ago. An exact counter part of this Halberd mounted, with its original handle, I saw in the Cincinnati Art Museum, which was loaned to the said institution, having been handed down at least 250 years. It was used with great skill to spear, climb forts, chop away an opening through the then dense forests, etc.

The Spanish Bowie Knife was found recently in Morristown when digging for grading a hillside, by William Cremens.

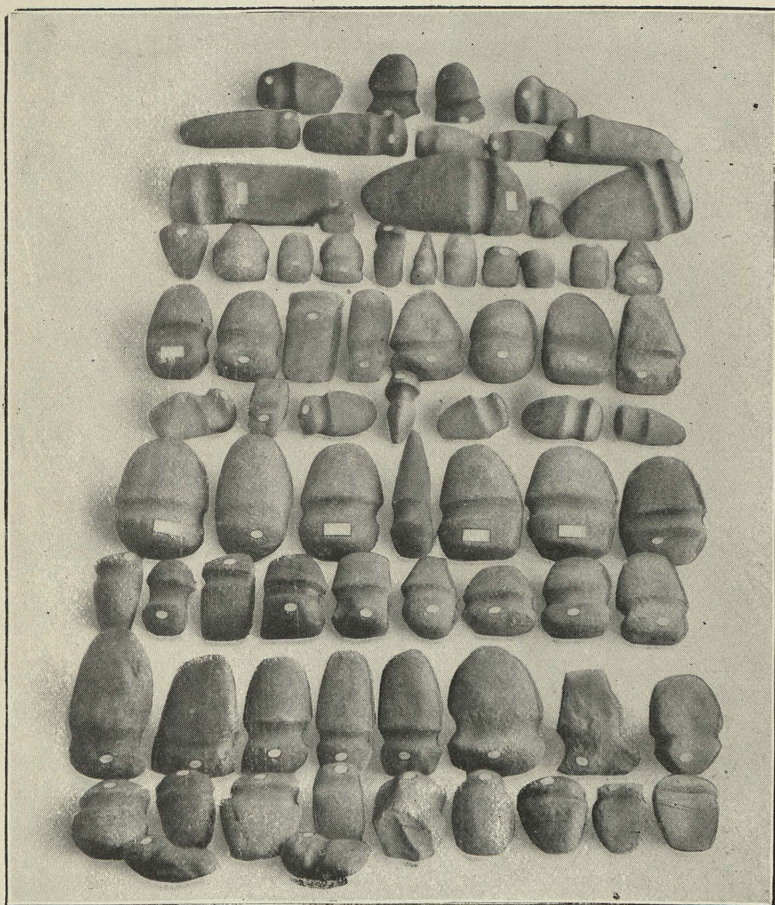
The Squaw Ax and peace pipe Tomahawk were both plowed up years ago and were no doubt made for the early Red Skins in this section, who were Miami and Ben Davis Indians, by the men that no doubt lost the Halberd. The early settlers, when on friendly terms, would exchange these handmade implements of Iron with the Indians for furs, pottery, etc.

The two Spikes shown are from the first railroad built in Indiana, known as the Knightstown & Shelbyville Railroad. An old settler tells me that it is 52 years since he last rode on it. It was a flat bar system, wooden sleepers and a flat iron rail was spiked on with these spikes, which were found by my friend L. Cole on his farm in Hanover Township. The road crossed Main street in Morristown, where stood the old depot, and the two nails shown were taken from the building when it was torn down. My stepfather (deceased), Collins Wilmot Griffith, the first mill wrighter and pattern maker, that superintended the building of the first Flour Mills



and Foundries in this part of the State, in his years of retirement was the owner of the Stage line which operated between Knightstown and Shelbyville. He also conducted the Hotel at Knightstown. The sad affair of building and putting this fast Railroad into operation was such competition that he soon lost his fortune tied up in horses and stages. He continued to conduct the Hotel and many belated passengers were his guests for several days at a time until the mishap on this slow Railroad was corrected.

Thus I bring my Iron Age to a close. I have brought you from the prehistoric past into history and there I close, with a mention of the progression of 75 years—the Telephone, Electrical Achievements, Phonograph, Wireless Telegraphy, Flying Machine.



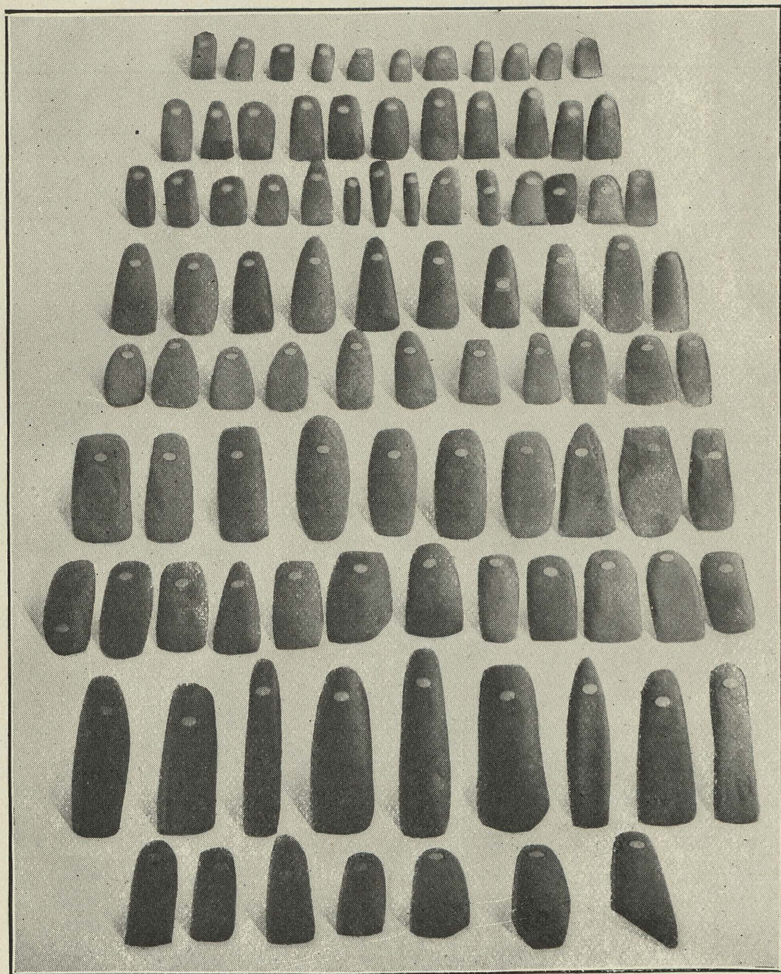
GROOVED AXES.



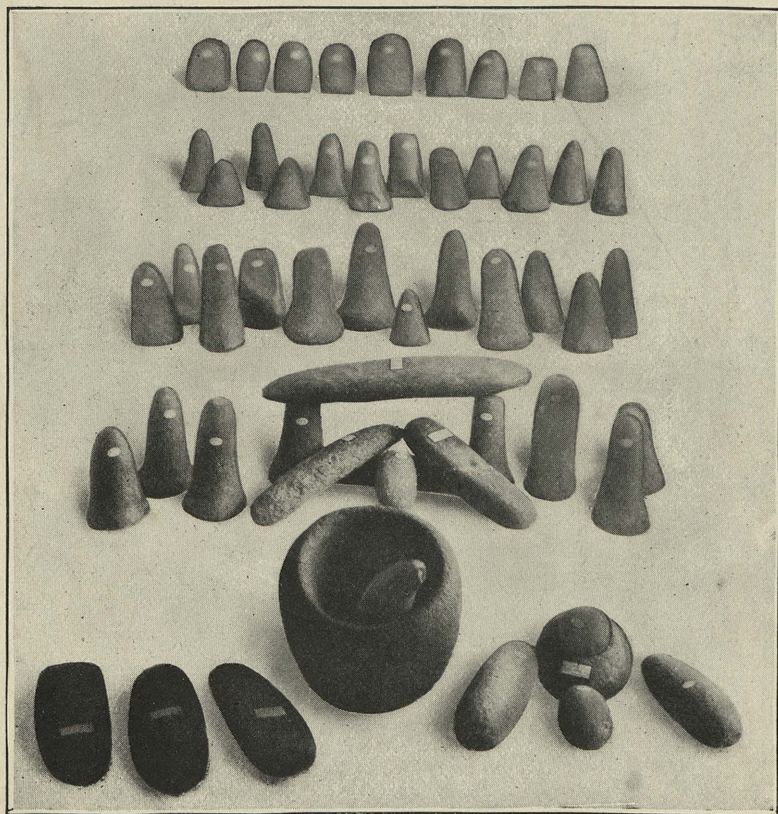
PITTED STONES, GROOVED MORTARS, HAMMERS, ALTAR STONE, HOES
AND HEARTH STONES.



CEREMONIALS.



CELTS, GAGES, CHISELS.



PESTLES, MULLERS, MORTARS.

FREDRICK W. GOTTIEB.